



CITY OF GENEVA

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March 17, 2020

Dear Residents:

I am sure you are all watching the ongoing events in our Country surrounding the Coronavirus (COVID19) and the many preventive measures being announced daily by the State of Ohio and Governor Mike DeWine. The City of Geneva continues to monitor this evolving situation and is working with our County Health Department, the Ohio Department of Health (ODH), the Center of Disease Control (CDC) and other County Offices and Officials to stay informed of these preventative measures while discussing what other strategies may be implemented locally for our own protections.

These preventative measures are certainly intensifying as more research and data becomes available. I realize some of these measures will create hardships for you and your families; however, you need to know these decisions are being made out of an abundance of caution to slow "communal spread" of the virus.

To this end, the City of Geneva has made the following decisions as it pertains to various operations of the City:

1. City Council meeting scheduled for March 23rd is still on to address some legislative needs and will be reduced in length of time as much as possible. Council will discuss future meeting times for the next couple of months. Residents who have questions for the Administration or Council are asked to send them via email to Doug Starkey, citymanager@genevaohio.gov or by calling (440) 466-4675 by 4:30 p.m. the day of the meeting. You may also call any of your Council persons. Contact numbers and email addresses for Council are on the City's website as well.
2. Committee Meetings will only take place if there is vital business to conduct relative to the operations of the City. Please continue to check the City's website for current meetings and times.
3. You are asked to only visit City facilities if it is an urgent situation which cannot be resolved by phone or email. If you are paying your sewer and water bills, you can pay electronically through the City website, via US Mail or utilize the drop box outside the City Hall entrance. We are stopping public access to City facilities until further notice as of 5:00 pm today, March 17th.
4. Income tax returns and payments can be made via the same drop box as described above or via US mail. If you need assistance filling out your return, you can drop off your W-2's, applicable schedules, a copy of your Federal 1040 and a signed City income tax form and we will complete it for you. This form can be found on our website and you can

The City of Geneva is to provide quality services in a professional, efficient and equitable manner, while maintaining a friendly, personal environment, which encourages opportunities for economic development and growth.

call (440) 466-3913 to have special arrangements made to get you forms. We will notify you if payment or additional information is needed.

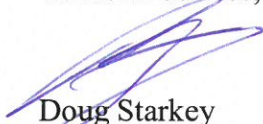
5. Public Works Department will still respond to sewer and water calls and issues, however employees will not be permitted to enter homes until further notice unless it's deemed an emergency.
6. Jail visits are suspended until further notice. In addition, for non-emergency situations, you are encouraged to call (440) 466-1111 rather than coming into the Police Station. Some reports may be taken by phone rather than in person depending on the nature of the situation.
7. The Fire Department is postponing all non-essential services and will only be responding to emergency calls. All inspections including rental inspections have been suspended until further notice. No visitors are permitted at this time, as we are trying to protect the first responders, so they are ready and able to continue responding to the residents in their time of need. Once this passes, we will continue with the fire inspection, smoke detector, station tours, and other programs. If there are any Fire Department questions, please call (440) 466-3321.
8. As of now, the Governor has banned any gathering over 10 people and it is strongly suggested you practice social distancing (6' space between other individuals) at all times. Use your best judgement and be cautious when traveling outside your home or work settings.
9. As of 9:00 p.m. Sunday March 15, 2020, the Governor has restricted all restaurants and bars to carry out only. This will have a tremendous financial and economic impact on our businesses and their employees. We ask you to make a concerted effort to patronize these businesses and utilize what services they have available during this restriction while keeping yourself safe.
10. As of close of business March 16, 2020 all gyms, fitness centers, bowling alleys, theaters, public recreation centers and indoor water parks are closed indefinitely by order of the Governor. The Western County Court will institute their own policies and practices. If you have business with the Court, please contact their offices with any questions.
11. As stated, these measures and those announced by the State of Ohio and Governor DeWine are to slow the spread of COVID-19 but will also prevent the spread of other infectious diseases such as the flu. I again encourage you to practice social distancing as recommended by the CDC. You can do your part by practicing good hygiene habits such as:
 - a. Frequently washing your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. This should be done immediately after being in a public place or after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing. Hand sanitizer with an alcohol content of at least 60% alcohol is acceptable if soap and water are unavailable. Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
 - b. Avoid contact with those who are sick and practice social distancing.

- c. Stay home if you are sick.
- d. Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or use the inside of your elbow when coughing or sneezing.
- e. Throw tissues in the trash and immediately wash your hands.
- f. Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily such as doorknobs, light switches, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets and sinks to name a few. If surfaces are dirty, clean them with detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection.

I ask you to educate yourself with facts. For up to date and factual information regarding COVID-19, please visit www.coronavirus.ohio.gov. In addition, information can be found on the Ashtabula County Health Department and City websites. The CDC also has a wealth of information to assist you during these difficult times. In addition, visit the Ohio Department of Health website at www.odh.ohio.gov or call 1-833-4ASKODH (1-833-427-5634) if you have further questions.

I want to thank our citizens for your cooperation as we work through the challenges, information and mandates that are constantly changing. I ask all of you to take care of yourselves and your family. Please take the time to check on the elderly and at-risk neighbors. Please take time with children to learn during this time while school is closed. By all of us working together we can get through these challenging times. My prayers are with all of you impacted in any way and life as we know it is changing to limit this spread. We all hope that at the end it's deemed that all of this was an overabundance of caution and that we can get back to our lives and daily routines.

Yours in Service,



Doug Starkey
City Manager